

Professional and Managerial Branch
Miscellaneous Professional Group
Toxicology Series

POLICE TOXICOLOGIST

07/90

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

Under direction, supervises and participates in the activities and operation of the City's criminalistic laboratory and toxicology section and performs related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Supervises and operates breath testing equipment; supervises the proper handling and storage of chemicals; assures proper maintenance and calibration of certified chemical breath testing and other equipment; checks chemicals used for testing and prepares formulas as necessary.

Reviews breath testing reports prepared by breath analyst operators to assure that the essential information has been obtained and recorded; provides testimony in court in blood alcohol levels; provides testimony in court concerning breath testing instruments and related equipment and testing techniques, both in breath testing and criminalistic.

Conducts investigations and inspections of breath testing programs, as directed by the Scientific Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety; assures compliance with directives concerning the breath testing program issued by the Scientific Director of the Department of Public Safety; notifies the Scientific Director of malfeasance and non-compliance with Texas Chemical Breath Testing Regulations Provisions.

Trains toxilizer operators; prepares manuals; assures re-certification of breath testing operators.

Performs laboratory analysis of evidence obtained at the scene of a crime or from the victim; operates a variety of laboratory and electrophoretic equipment for the identification of blood and body fluids, and scanning spectrophotometer, gas-chromatograph for the identification and evaluation of drugs; acts as custodian of and assures security and inventory of controlled substances; orders materials and supplies as needed; maintains records and prepares reports as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Training and Experience: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in chemistry, or as an alternative a major in another scientific field with at least 18 hours in chemistry; course work in blood banking, serology, and toxicology and three (3) years experience in analytical laboratory work; or at least three (3) years of laboratory experience to include analyses of blood and body fluids (i.e., blood typing and antibody identification, blood proteins identification, and drug identification). Course work in the above areas and forensic analytical laboratory work with blood and body fluids is preferred.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Considerable knowledge of the standard procedures, equipment and terminology common in a chemical laboratory; considerable knowledge of the theories, principles and practices of chemical analyses; considerable knowledge of the use and handling of chemicals; good knowledge of the techniques and equipment used in a police criminalistic laboratory; good knowledge of the hazards of the trade, including characteristics of chemicals, and safe working practices, procedures and equipment; some knowledge of supervisory techniques.

Ability to perform laboratory analyses requiring care and accuracy; ability to prepare and present evidence in court both orally and in writing; ability to train and evaluate the work of assigned personnel; ability to plan and supervise the functions and activities of a laboratory; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with fellow employees and the public; ability to prepare reports and maintain records.

Skill in the use and handling of chemicals; skill in the use and care of laboratory equipment.

Physical Requirements: Mobility within a chemistry lab and crime scene environment; exposure to hazardous chemicals; operate a motor vehicle through city traffic.

Licenses and Certificates: Must obtain Technical Supervisor certification after appointment; Texas Class "C" Driver's License or equivalent license issued by another state.

Director of Personnel

Department Head